

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [0024] and replace it with the following:

4. Splashplate divergent portion 162 is spaced radially outwardly from flare cone portion 78 such that an annular gap 190 is defined therebetween. Specifically, gap 190 is defined between a radially inner surface 192 of divergent portion 162 and flare cone outer surface 142. Gap 190 has a diameter D_1 that facilitates improving the producibility of splashplate-flare cone assembly 76. ~~In one embodiment, gap diameter D_1 is at least (PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXEMPLARY LOWER LIMIT FOR THE GAP DIAMETER)~~

REMARKS

Subsequent to entry of the foregoing amendment, Claims 1 - 20 will be pending in this application.

Applicant requests entry of the foregoing amendment prior to examination of this application. Favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert B. Reeser III', is written over a horizontal line.

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